

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are cancelled. Claims 41, 44-45, 47, 51, 53, 56-57, 59, and 63 are subject to an affirmed rejection by the BPAI and the affirmance thereof are deferred until prosecution before the Examiner is concluded. Although all of the appealed claims are listed in the listing of claims above, only the claims rejected under new grounds are available for further prosecution here.

Claims 40, 42, 43, 46, 48-50, 52, 54, 55, 58 and 60-62 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, Claims 40, 42, 43, 46, 48-50, 52, 54, 55, 58 and 60-62 stand rejected. Claims 40 and 52 have been amended. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 40, 42, 43, 46, 48-50, 52, 54, 55, 58 and 60-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Motoyama ('388) reference, MS Word ("Working with Microsoft Word 6.0: Part II – The Art of Page Design", Smart Computing in Plain English, May 1995, pages 54-57), and the Griswold ('911) reference. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 40 will be addressed as representative of independent claim 52. In the field of digital printing, printer operators often receive documents having a variety of different characteristics, such that different portions of the documents often need to be printed by different printing devices. For example, a document may include sections having only black and white text and other sections having color images. The printer operator may need to print the sections having only black and white text with black and white printers and the sections having color images with color printers. It is therefore desirable that the printer operator have the ability to designate on which printing devices the various pages of the composite document should be printed without compromising the integrity of the original electronic version. It is further desirable that the printer operator has the ability to group the pages destined for a specific printing device and print them together without printing pages associated with other printing devices. Since the pages destined for the same printing device may be non-consecutive, it is desirable that the printer operator be able to designate a single group of images which includes both consecutive and non-consecutive pages that can be single

pages or subgroups of pages. It is also desirable for the printer operator have the ability to assign different identifiers to different groups of pages for printing by different printers

The present invention addresses these problems by inserting group identifiers into electronic representations of the documents. The group identifiers establish one or more groups of pages each group of which can include consecutive and non-consecutive pages that can be single pages or sub-groups of pages and are used by software to allow a printer operator to selectively print these page groups with different printers. Claim 40 defines a method of operating a print system to print an electronically formatted document having a plurality of images. The method includes running a Print Document Management System (PDMS) program on a computer which receives the document into the Print Document Management System program. The method also includes displaying in the PDMS a Graphical User Interface ("GUI") which permits a print operator to assign group identifiers into the document to establish groups of pages in the document to thereby create an amended document, wherein a single group of pages can include both consecutive and non-consecutive pages that can be single pages or sub-groups of pages and wherein a first group of pages is assigned a first identifier for printing at a first printer and a second group of pages is assigned a second identifier for printing at a second printer. Additionally, the method includes instructing the computer to send one or more of the groups of pages of the amended document to an output data stream for printing at the first and second printers, respectively.

None of the references cited disclose a method and system for operating a print system in which a print operator can assign first and second identifiers to respective groups of pages to be printed at respective first and second printers.. Thus pages having color images can be printed at a high resolution color printer while black and white (e. g., text) pages can be printed at a less expensive black and white printer. Motoyama does not disclose using different identifiers to print different groups of pages of a document at different printers. The Microsoft Word document only discloses information for page design including creating sections. Griswold is totally irrelevant to the problem of printing solved by the claimed invention and relates to method and system for computerized learning, response and evaluation.

Applicant respectfully takes issue with the examiner's assertion that Griswold is properly combined with the other two references to make obvious the claimed invention. As previously argued by Applicant, Griswold relates to a method and system for

computerized learning, response, and evaluation. There is no control of printers or the printing operation disclosed in Griswold. Moreover, the user in Griswold has no control over “the manipulation, editing and processing of digital document image data”, and no control over the ability to insert group identifiers on images displayed. The branching technique used in Griswold is established during the authoring mode when the learning software is developed. It is the software author that inserts control buttons (Griswold, Fig. 4, elements 64 and 68) on a page displayed to a user of the learning software, that allows the user to branch to non-consecutive pages (Griswold, Fig. 4, branch path 60). “The system also provides for branching of various points of the lesson. These branches are created in the authoring portion of the system-----, When branch information is available it is indicated to the user through the use of a control button located on the page.” (Griswold, col. 7, lines 26 – 41). “The authoring portion allows a developer or author to have ultimate control over any and all pathways which a user of the lesson may potentially take.” (Griswold, col. 15, lines 23 – 26). There is no provision in Griswold for the user to insert group identifiers in pages displayed to the user. This is a key feature of the present invention. It is submitted that claim 40 is clearly nonobvious over the cited references.

The arguments above relating to the nonobviousness of Claim 40 are equally applicable to Claim 52 and the Claims dependent from Claims 40 and 52.

It is submitted that Claims 40, 42-43, 46, 48-50, 52, 54-55, 58, and 60-62 are nonobvious over Motoyama, MS Word and Griswold and should be allowed.

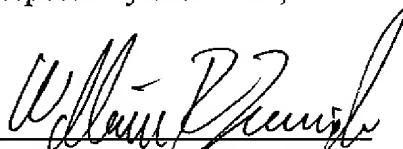
Since Claims 41, 44-45, 47, 51, 53, 56-57, 59, and 63 which had an affirmed rejection by the BPAI are dependent from allowable Claims 40 and 52, it is submitted that these claims should also be allowed. As stated in MPEP 1214.01; “Prosecution before the examiner of the 37 CFR 41.50(b) rejection can incidentally result in overcoming the affirmed rejection even though the affirmed rejection is not open to further prosecution.”

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.